



REMARKS

The Office Action

**Election/Restrictions**

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-12 and 16-20, in the reply filed on 12/01/2005 is acknowledged.

**Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/09770 to Southard et al.

**Objection to claims 5, 6, 9 and 10**

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

**Allowance of Claims 16-20**

Claims 16-20 have been allowed. Applicant appreciates the allowance of these claims.

**Amendments**

**Claims 8, 9 and 13-15 are Cancelled**

Claims 8, 9 and 13-15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 13-15 may be pursued in a divisional application.

**Claims 1 and 11 are Amended**

Claim 11 has been amended so that it now depends from new claim 21. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations that were recited in original claims 8 and 9. Other limitations have been deleted. Claim 9 was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, which is claim 1, and any intervening claim, which is claim 8. Claim 1 and those claims that depend from claim 1 are believed to be allowable.

**Claims 21-25 have been Amended**

Claim 21 has been added to the application and is believed to define over Southard et al. Claim 21 recites first, second and third socket housings and first, second and third LEDs. Claim 1 also recites a flexible electrical cable including first, second and third electrical conductors. The Examiner is correct that Southard et al. does not include a third electrical conductor. Instead, Southard et al. only disclose two electrical conductors, thus teaching that the plurality of LEDs (102) are connected to one another in parallel.

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Southard et al. with a third electrical conductor and to electrically connect the LEDs to the respective conductors as recited in claim 21. As stated above, Southard et al. merely teach parallel connection of a plurality of LEDs. This is not the electrical configuration that is recited in claim 21. Southard et al. provide no teaching or suggestion of such an electrical configuration. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 defines over Southard et al.

Claim 21 also recites "an insulation member disposed between the first location and the second location," these locations being where the third LED electrically connects to the second conductor, and that "the insulation member separates the second electrical conductor to prohibit flow of electricity." Southard et al. fail to disclose or provide any motivation for such an insulation member. This is because in Southard et al. the LEDs are connected in parallel and have no need for such an insulation member. It is for this additional reason that claim 21 defines over Southard et al.

Claims 22-25 depend from claim 21 and are patentable for at least the reasons as recited with respect to claim 21.

## CONCLUSION

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Alternatively, if the Examiner is of the view that the application is not in clear condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned for purposes of conducting a telephone interview to resolve any outstanding differences. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 19, 2006

Date

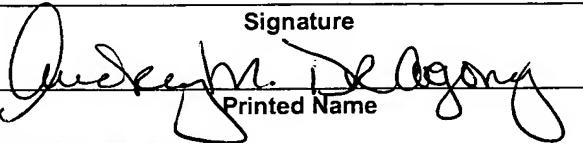
  
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